

HYPOSMOCHOMA BUTLER, 1881 (INSECTA, LEPIDOPTERA):
A CASE FOR CONSERVATION. Z.N.(S.) 1853

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1. Butler's original spelling of this generic name was *Hyposmochoma*, and this is the correct one under the Code.

2. Professor Zimmerman's prime reason for requesting it to be changed (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 25 : 176-177) is that, as it stands, it would appear to require a masculine gender, and the 300 + specific names it commands would have to be changed from feminine agreement. The name change itself is comparatively insignificant.

3. The desirability of conserving an author's original spelling is of paramount importance, provided stability is not affected.

4. Under Article 30(a)(i) of the Code, provision is made for the International Commission to rule as to gender without invoking their plenary powers.

5. It is here submitted that stability (as regards all the specific names), and both the letter and the spirit of the Code (as regards the generic as well as the specific names), would all be served if Butler's original spelling were properly restored (in place of the unjustifiable emendation "*Hyposmocoma*"), along with an official ruling that its gender be feminine.

6. Such endorsement by the International Commission of the name *Hyposmochoma* Butler, 1881, for this exclusively Hawaiian genus, followed by a statement of the case in Professor Zimmerman's incomparable work, one which is bound to be consulted by any future student of the subject, will infallibly ensure ultimate continuity and stability.

7. Past philologists and emendators have tried to prove Butler wrong. Would it not be fairer to suggest he tried? He gave no derivation for *Hyposmochoma*, but he may have wished to telescope the perfectly correct Greek words ὑπο, ὄσμος, ὄχος (a container, or receptacle), and κομη, which transliterate into Latin as *Hypo*, *osmos*, *ochos* and *coma*, into a compacted whole. This view does permit one to consider that '*coma*', however mangled, was, with its feminine gender, the final constituent of the amalgam. Butler's insect had, perhaps, a scent-container of hair on the underwing. Nevertheless, this paragraph is parenthetical; it is the name itself, not its putative derivation, with which nomenclature is concerned.

8. The International Commission is therefore requested:

- (1) to rule, under Article 30(a)(i) of the Code, that the generic name *Hyposmochoma* Butler, 1881, is of feminine gender;
- (2) to place the generic name *Hyposmochoma* Butler, 1881 (*Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.*, (5) 7 : 399) (gender: feminine), type-species by monotypy *Hyposmochoma blackburnii* Butler, 1881 (l.c.: 400) on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *blackburnii* Butler, 1881 (: 400), as published in the binomen *Hyposmochoma blackburnii*, on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology;
- (4) to place the generic name *Hyposmocoma* Walsingham, 1907 (an unjustified emendation of *Hyposmochoma* Butler, 1881) on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

REFERENCE

- ZIMMERMAN, E. C. 1969. *Hyposmocoma* Butler, 1881 (Insecta, Lepidoptera): proposed validation of emendation from *Hyposmochoma*. *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 25 (4/5) : 176-177.

NOTE: Butler's 1881 paper was in two parts; on pp. 317-333, 392-408, and our reference falls in the latter. Zimmerman's reference on p. 177 is incomplete, citing only the former.